

## Angus Alexander Hanson (1922-2005)

Angus “Gus” Hanson was born in British Columbia, Canada, in 1922. His post-secondary education was at the University of British Columbia (BSA 1944), McGill University (MSc 1946) and Pennsylvania State University (PhD 1951). During Hanson’s doctoral studies, he served as a geneticist and agronomist at the U.S. Regional Pasture Research Laboratory in State College, Pennsylvania, where he conducted research into breeding and cytogenetics of many grass varieties.<sup>1</sup>

Hanson began working for the USDA in 1953 as a research agronomist with the Crops Research Division of the Agricultural Research Service.<sup>2</sup> His research involved study of the effects of fertilization, herbicides, and environmental factors on Kentucky bluegrass, bermudagrass, Merion, red fescue and other grasses. He published extensively – often with USDA colleague Felix Juska – including three editions of the book [Grass Varieties in the United States](#) (1959, 1965 and 1972).

In 1965, Hanson was appointed Chief of the Forest and Range Research Branch of the ARS Crops Research Division, and in 1972 he was named head of the ARS Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.<sup>3</sup> He retired from the USDA in 1979 and died in 2005.<sup>4</sup>



Photo source:  
<http://alumni.landfood.ubc.ca/profiles/angus-hanson/>

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<sup>1</sup> R. Blair, “Dr. Angus Hanson,” 2001. University of British Columbia, Faculty of Land and Food Systems, Alumni. 13 August 2013.

[http://www.zoominfo.com/CachedPage/?archive\\_id=0&page\\_id=402903880&page\\_url=//www.agsci.ubc.ca/history/biography/angus\\_hanson.htm&page\\_last\\_updated=2005-08-07T11:30:52&firstName=Angus&lastName=Hanson](http://www.zoominfo.com/CachedPage/?archive_id=0&page_id=402903880&page_url=//www.agsci.ubc.ca/history/biography/angus_hanson.htm&page_last_updated=2005-08-07T11:30:52&firstName=Angus&lastName=Hanson)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> “In Memorium: Angus Hanson 1922-2005,” *The FAR-B News* [Friends of Agricultural Research-Beltsville, Inc.] (June 2005): 6-7.